

LIBRARY

B O R O U G H O F T I P T O N .

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
(Eric C. Downer, M.A., D.P.H.)



including that of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
(G.H. Acton, M.S.I.A.)

for the

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER,

1946.

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer

Eric C. Downer, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.,

Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer.

Mary Pilling, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Part-time Officers of Maternity & Child Welfare.

J.S.M. Connell, F.R.C.S., Consulting Gynaecologist.
A.M. Duff, M.B., B.Ch., Ophthalmologist.
M. Lauder, School Dental Officer.
D Ashmore, Dental Attendant.

Health Visiting Staff.

Mrs. A.C. King
Miss. L.A. Powell
Miss M.M. Byard
Miss R.M. Moore

Mrs. L. Bowen.)
Mrs. G. Murdoch) Part-time.

Clerical staff at the Clinic.

Miss J. Fisher
Miss J. Stanford
Miss H. Jenkins

Day Nursery.

Mrs. G. Hayward Matron
Mrs. E. Cockerill Deputy Matron

Three Child Care Reserves
Three Probationers
Domestic Staff

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

X G.H. Acton, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors.

X R.G. Hill, M.S.I.A.
X W.A. Stocker.

Clerical Staff at the Municipal Buildings.

W. Hemmings.
Miss J. Portman
Miss J. Cox.

Ambulance Staff.

Mrs. K. Philpotts.)
T. Doggett) Drivers

B. Fletcher Driver (Reserve)

Miss N. Harper.)
H. Nicholls.) Attendants

X Qualified Meat Inspector.

Public Health Department,

Municipal Buildings,

Sedgley Road West,

TIPTON.

February, 1947.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for 1946. In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health for the 1945 report, it is greatly abridged.

While in no sense trying to present a full survey report for the war period, I have felt that it would be of interest to put in one report the statistics for the war years, and comments on the effect of the circumstances of war on the health of Tipton will be found in this report.

In April, Mr. W.A. Stocker commenced duties as Additional Sanitary Inspector to replace Mr. Houghton. This appointment will relieve the strain on the Chief Sanitary Inspector and the other Additional Sanitary Inspector.

A noteworthy feature of 1946 has been the increasing proportion of the time of the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Sanitary Inspector which has been devoted to matters connected with housing. As no duty laid on the Council has a greater influence on the public health than housing, it is right that these two Officers should devote much of their time and thought to it. But it is undoubtedly encroaching on the time available for their other duties.

In April 1946, the Tipton Sub-Committee which had acted as agents for the Staffordshire Education Committee since April, 1945, ceased to function and the functions of School Medical Officer carried out by your M.O.H. are now supervised from Stafford instead of by one of your Committees.

Further, in accordance with the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, it seems likely that at the 1st April 1948, the Maternity & Child Welfare, Midwives Acts and Ambulance powers of the Council will be transferred to the Staffordshire County Council. This will complete the divorce between the housing and environmental health functions of the Tipton Borough Council and the personal health services which they formerly discharged. In my view this is a great pity. As delegation to individual County districts is not permissible under the relative Acts, the only way in which this service can now be co-ordinated is by your Medical Officer of Health holding also an appointment under the County Council. Otherwise your M.O.H. will tend to cease to be a "Doctor" and will be a health administrator and inspector.

Continued/

This is the last report I shall have the honour to lay before you and I desire in it to offer my sincere thanks, not only for 1946 but for the six years that I have been your M.O.H., for the constant support and encouragement I have been given. Those ladies and gentlemen who have been Chairmen of your Public Health, Maternity & Child Welfare, and other Committees, and the individual members of Committees, (some of whom are no longer members of the Council and some of whom have passed on), have always encouraged me to strive for the improved health of this town and its people and have welcomed and given ready consideration to any proposals that I submitted to that effect, and I shall ever recall with gratitude their courtesy and consideration to me.

In taking leave of you I wish to commend to you my colleagues, the Assistant M.O.H. and the Chief Sanitary Inspector, the Nursing and Sanitary and Clerical staffs both at the Municipal Buildings and at the Clinic and the Staff of your Day Nursery. The spirit of devotion to duty and of desire to serve their town which has animated them, has made it possible to accomplish much and I feel certain that they will continue to serve you dutifully and loyally.

Finally I wish to express my debt to my colleagues the Medical Practitioners of the town, to the School Dental Officer, to our Consultant Gynaecologist, to the School Ophthalmologist, and to parents and members of the general public for help at all times and for much co-operation and patience.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ERIC C. DOWNER.

Medical Officer of Health.

S T A T I S T I C S .

The statistics appended are those notified or known to this Department, the corrected statistics will be received later in the year from the Registrar General and will be circulated when received.

Area (in acres)	2167
Population (Census 1931)	35814
Population (estimated 1946)	37445
No. of inhabited houses, December, 1946	9308
Rateable Value (31st March, 1946)	£150106
Sum represented by the penny rate	£580

LIVE BIRTHS. (Table 1)

Year	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939
Legitimate	781	722	798	796	746	684	763	732
Illegitimate	12	23	27	23	10	13	8	13
Birth Rate per 1000 est. res. pop.	21.18	20.72	22.88	23.00	21.22	19.64	21.99	19.93

STILL BIRTHS. (Table 2)

Year	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939
No. of Still Births	23	20	15	27	27	14	23	30
Still Birth Rate per 1000 live and still births	28.19	26.14	17.86	23.75	21.97	19.83	28.84	23.70

DEATHS. (Table 3)

Year	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939
No. of Deaths	378	394	388	409	430	458	435	443
Death Rate per 1000 est. res. pop.	10.01	10.96	10.45	11.48	12.07	12.91	12.41	12.01
Maternal Deaths	1	2	2	4	3	2	3	2
Maternal Mort. Rate	1.23	2.68	2.42	4.93	3.97	2.80	3.78	2.58
Infant Deaths (under 1 yr.)	32	43	44	47	57	53	39	57
Inft. Mort. Rt.	39.22	57.72	55.76	62.27	74.15	75.57	50.58	76.4

DETAILED CAUSES OF DEATH. (Table 4)

Disease	M.	F.	Total
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	-	1
Whooping Cough	-	1	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	21	17	38
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	3	4
Influenza	2	-	2
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	1	-	1
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (M)	1	-	1
Uterus (F)	-	3	3
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	5	3	8
Cancer of Breast	-	4	4
Cancer of all other sites	12	14	26
Diabetes	1	3	4
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	18	23	41
Heart Disease	58	55	113
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	3	6
Bronchitis	5	7	12
Pneumonia	7	6	13
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	-	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2	1	3
Other Digestive Diseases	3	2	5
Nephritis	2	2	4
Other Maternal Causes	-	1	1
Premature Birth	8	4	12
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease	4	1	5
Suicide	1	-	1
Road Traffic Accidents	4	1	5
Other Violent Causes	6	3	9
All other Causes	33	18	51
Total - all causes	202	176	378

The above Table is compiled from statistics furnished to us. by the Local Registrar.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES. (Table 5)

The following table gives particulars of the incidence of Notifiable Diseases. These differ to a small degree from the Registrar General's figures.

Disease	Number of cases Notified.							
	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939
Sc. Fever	55	131	284	143	105	99	91	46
Diphtheria	19	54	78	132	100	135	99	50
Measles	23	481	47	239	425	562	67	
Wh. Cough	84	61	154	90	198	225	24	
Pneumonia	70	42	74	111	133	122	98	121
Erysipelas	7	9	13	11	25	20	14	19
C-S-Menin.	4	1	6	2	5	1	5	1
Ac. Polio.	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-
Dysentery	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyr.	-	-	4	1	7	4	9	6
Typhoid Fever	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	3
Oph. Neon.	3	-	2	3	5	5	5	7
En. Lethargica	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-

N.B.

Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations not enforced until 1940.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES. (contd.).

(Table 6)

Disease	No. of Deaths (Registrar General's figures except for 1946)							
	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939
Sc. Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Diphtheria	-	2	3	11	4	13	12	1
Measles	-	2	-	-	2	5	-	7
Wh. Cough	1	1	2	2	5	3	3	3
Pneumonia	13	20	23	29	27	33	30	40
C-S-Meningitis	1	3	-	1	-	1	1	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
P. Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
En. Lethargica	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE FOR 1946 ACCORDING
TO AGE GROUPS.

(Table 7)

Age Groups	Sc. Fever	Diph.	Meas les	Wh. Cough	Age Groups	Pneu mon ia	Ery sip elas	C-S-Menin gitis	Oph. Neon.
Under 1 year	-	-	2	8	1 to 5 years	14	-	2	3
1 - 3	3	3	8	21	5 - 15	16	-	1	-
3 - 5	7	2	6	33	15 to 45	27	3	1	-
5-10	26	11	7	21	45 to 65	8	2	-	-
10 to 15	13	2	-	1	65 and over	5	2	-	-
15 to 25	2	1	-	-					
25 and over	4	-	-	-					
TOTALS	55	19	23	84	TOTALS	70	7	4	3

T U B E R C U L O S I S .

(Table 8)

Notifications of Tuberculosis during the last eight years.			
Year	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Totals
1946	54	17	71
1945	65	8	73
1944	55	4	59
1943	57	12	69
1942	59	7	66
1941	52	7	59
1940	33	4	37
1939	41	16	57

NOTIFICATION OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1946 ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

(Table 9)

Age Groups	New Cases					Deaths				
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
0-1 yr.	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	1
1-5	1	-	1	2	4	-	-	-	2	2
5-15	-	-	4	1	5	-	-	1	-	1
15-25	8	7	2	3	20	7	11	-	-	18
25-35	13	6	1	1	21	3	7	-	-	10
35-45	8	2	-	1	11	4	-	-	1	5
45-55	3	1	-	-	4	3	1	-	-	4
55-65	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	3	1	-	-	4	2	-	-	-	2
TOTALS	36	18	9	8	71	19	19	2	3	43

N.B. One T.B. patient over 65 died from a cause other than Tuberculosis and is included in the above table.

GENERAL HEALTH OF THE PUBLIC.

The general health of the public throughout the year 1946 remained very good. The winter and early spring were exceptionally mild and no suffering was occasioned through lack of fuel. The summer and autumn were consistently wet and the population at the end of the year had to face the rigours of winter without the stimulus that fine summer weather undoubtedly bestows. But with holidays with pay becoming general, a larger proportion of the population had a definite break in the summer.

Continued austerity and rationing have been a disappointment and the necessity for rationing bread in the summer was a depressing one but it must be admitted that the ration was at least adequate and that no real hardship has been caused by it.

Towards the end of the year signs were not lacking that the public might have to face a shortage of fuel especially if the winter were to prove severe. Up to the close of the year the winter had definitely been mild.

During the year the public who had been looking forward for six years to the hope of relaxation and of easier living began to realise the stern realities of today. The truth that instead of peace and plenty and easier times, there lie ahead of the people of this country long years of hard work, rationing, shortages and possibly a lower standard of living, has disappointed many. But the fundamental things, good health, low incidence of infectious disease, adequate supplies of the essential foodstuffs, are compensations. The resumption of building, however slow and delayed, is a sign of ultimate better things. The increased marriage and birth rates are signs that our young folk have confidence. Depressing as the immediate outlook is, no-one who knows the essential resilience and sterling character of our people can doubt that given good health they will triumph over their temporary disadvantages and advance to prosperity and to a good standard of living once again.

DEATHS AND DEATH RATE. (Tables 3 and 4)

There were 378 deaths in Tipton in 1946 as against 394 in 1945 but it is noteworthy that while in 1945 the number of male and female deaths were approximately equal, in 1946 the male to female stood in the ratio of 8 to 7.

No less than 113 (30%) of the deaths were certified as due to heart disease or cardiac failure. Intracranial vascular lesions (10.8%) came next, then respiratory tuberculosis with 38 (10%) of the total.

It was interesting to note, possibly as the result of the mild winter and spring, that deaths from bronchitis and pneumonia showed a very marked decline, being together 25 as against 59 in the previous year. Cancer with 42 deaths showed a 20% decline from the 51 deaths of 1945 and this was particularly marked in cancer of the stomach and duodenum.

Three children under two years of age died from diarrhoea and enteritis as against five in 1945. On the other hand deaths attributed to prematurity numbered 12 and to congenital malformation or birth injury 5, as against 8 and 10 for 1945. There is room for much research into the causation of premature birth and of the birth of weakly or malformed children.

The Death Rate for 1946 is 10.01 as against 10.96 for 1945.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE, 1939-46 (Table 5).

Comparative tables are submitted showing the number of cases of notified infectious diseases during the years 1939 to 1946 inclusive.

Scarlet Fever.

It is noted that only in 1944 was there anything like approaching an epidemic of Scarlet Fever in the town and that the 1946 figure (55) is, with the

exception of the 1939 figure (46), the lowest. During the last four years and including the numerous cases of 1944, the type of Scarlet Fever has been very mild indeed and complications have been a rarity. Nephritis seems now almost unheard of and otorrhoea very unusual. Far more cases of Scarlet Fever were hospitalised owing to overcrowding or to insanitary conditions than to the fact that their condition was such as to need hospital nursing. It seems likely that the type of Scarlet Fever will remain mild in the predictable future.

Diphtheria.

The effect of six years of campaigning in favour of immunisation and a state of affairs where approaching 90% of the children over 5 and 70% of those under five are immunised, has led to a marked reduction in the Diphtheria figures, the 1946 figure of 19 being lower by 60% than any previous figure. The policy of hospitalisation of cases of Diphtheria has been steadily pursued during the war years, only three cases where adequate facilities could be guaranteed at home having been permitted to remain there. I wish to record the opinion that the nursing of cases of Diphtheria cannot be combined with the normal duties of the housewife and that to ensure the strict discipline needed in the early weeks of a case of Faucial Diphtheria, it is essential, except in very few cases, that a child should be hospitalised. The Council pursued vigorously by press advertisement and posters and by domiciliary visitation and persuasion, its propaganda in favour of immunisation against Diphtheria in accordance with Circular 194/45, paras. 7 and 8.

Largely due to the extensive efforts of previous years the incidence of Diphtheria (19) was extremely low, but if that state of affairs continues it will deprive us of our best argument for immunisation, namely, that Diphtheria is as frequent as well as a dangerous disease.

Hospitalisation.

In 1946, as in the years immediately preceding, our cases of all serious infectious disease were hospitalised in the hospitals of the West Midlands Joint Hospital Board. The formation of this body and the acquisition by it on lease in 1941 of Moxley Hospital, near Wednesbury, went a long way to solve the problem of fever beds for the centre of the Black Country. Previous to the opening of Moxley Hospital in October, 1941, it was by no means unusual to try 10 Hospitals and fail to get admission for even a serious case. During 1946 all cases requiring hospital treatment were promptly accepted by the Joint Board. The accommodation at Moxley Hospital is not yet large enough to serve this heavily populated area and it is hoped that it will not be permitted to revert from its present most necessary use until other and more large scale provision has been made for the area.

Half yearly returns on immunisation have been furnished to the Ministry of Health.

Measles.

Measles was not made a compulsorily notifiable disease until 1940 so the statistics for 1939 and 1940 should be ignored. It is questionable whether more than a proportion of cases of Measles got notified at all as very frequently no doctor is called in. For some reason the fee for the notification of measles and whooping cough was fixed at 1/- instead of the customary 2/6d and one is tempted to wonder whether more accurate notification would not have followed the higher inducement. Measles during the war years showed the usual biennial fluctuation with one exception, that 1942 contrary to expectation, was a "high" year instead of a "low" year.

Whooping Cough.

I gravely doubt if anything like 100% of cases of Whooping Cough are seen by a doctor, diagnosed and notified. For the sake of bringing advice of Health Visitors into the homes where measles and whooping cough exist, it is perhaps a good thing that they are compulsorily notifiable. But as a scientific and accurate record of the incidence of these diseases in the community, it is worthless.

Pneumonia

Pneumonia has continued prevalent and to take a steady toll of life at all ages. It is no respecter of persons and strikes the young, the middle aged and the old impartially. It is interesting to note that while in 1945 there were 42 cases notified with 20 deaths (a majority of 47%), in 1946 there were 70 notifications and only 13 deaths (a majority of 18.5%). One is tempted to correlate this with the expansion of penicillin treatment and early control with sulphonilamide.

Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.

Cerebro-spinal Meningitis has remained very occasional, Nothing like the great epidemics of the pre-1914 period having occurred.

Poliomyelitis or Infantile Paralysis.

Only occurred in 1940 and 1945, two cases in each year.

Dysentery.

Formal notification only occurred in 1945 and then of four cases but, it is more than likely that quite a number of cases of Sonne dysentery were not notified and were regarded as transient diarrhoea.

Enteric Diseases.

The enteric group were very occasional and none occurred in the years 1940, 1942, 1945 and 1946.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

One solitary case occurred in 1942.

It was the general experience throughout England that the incidence of infectious disease was much less than one might have expected when one considered such things as blackout leading to lack of ventilation, overcrowding, insanitary dwellings and life in air raid shelters, also when one thought of lowered resistance due to lack of variation of diet, to fatigue due to long hours of work, Civil Defence or other activities and weary transport journeys. The policy of providing vitamin supplements and priority foods for children, bringing about increased resistance, had probably more to do with this comparative freedom from epidemic and from heavy mortality and morbidity, while the provision of good canteens, British Restaurants and chocolate milk drinks for younger workers helped to raise the resistance of the workers.

Since the cessation of the war, while there has been each winter quite an appreciable amount of influenza, nothing has occurred in any way resembling the scourging epidemics of "Spanish" influenza in the years immediately following the 1918 Armistice.

Watchful and most careful control over persons coming into this country from tropical and foreign infected areas has, with a few exceptions prevented the introduction of smallpox, typhus or cholera into this country.

CONTROL OF SMALLPOX AND TYPHUS.

During the first half of the year the examination and scrutiny of persons coming from areas abroad where smallpox or typhus were rife, was continued but with the return to this country of nearly all service personnel who actually served in the tropical campaigns this influx ended by the middle of the year. Full co-operation was afforded by the service personnel to safeguard the public.

TUBERCULOSIS.

I regret to report that the notifications of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis remain high. The sanatorium position has gone from bad to worse and it was reported to the Local Tuberculosis Authority towards

the end of the year that the female sanatorium at Kinver had had to be closed, that only one third of the beds at the female sanatorium at Groundslow could be used and only 50% at the male sanatorium at Prestwood. The reason given was of course shortage of staff. The remarks which I made in my report for 1945 as to the vicious circle which is set up by this failure of the sanatorium service, apply equally to 1946.

As regards the housing or re-housing of persons affected with Tuberculosis in Tipton, the Council gave grave consideration to this matter in the autumn of 1946 when they authorised an increase in the number of "points" to be allowed for ill health. This enabled the T.B. patients to gain rather more priority and several have been re-housed as a consequence. Towards the end of the year the Council instructed the Medical Officer of Health to report on the number and circumstances of tuberculous persons residing in the town and to draw attention to those who required urgent re-housing. It is hoped to present this report early in 1947.

We were informed by the Joint Board that 15 patients were admitted to sanatoria as follows:-

<u>Prestwood</u>	<u>Groundslow</u>	<u>Kinver</u>	<u>Standon Hall</u>	<u>Himley.</u>
7	1	2	4	1

SCABIES.

The attendances at the Scabies Treatment Clinic were as follows:-

School Children	329
Workers	103
Children under 5 years	105
Mothers of young children	89
H.M.Forces	2

In addition to that the heads of 106 children were cleansed owing to the presence of vermin or nits.

WATER SUPPLY.

I cannot imagine that any good purpose can be accomplished by reporting afresh on this service in view of the detailed reports given in the last two Annual Reports. With the exception of the connecting up of some 30 new houses there has been no change in the Tipton water supply.

The water supply for Tipton in 1946 was satisfactory in quality and quantity. Analytical and bacteriological examinations were made monthly and also at irregular intervals. The water is not liable to plumbo-solvent action. No action in respect of any form of contamination was taken or required throughout the year.

HOUSING.

The provision of Housing in Tipton in 1946.

The provision of new houses in the Borough proceeded and lay-out plans were prepared by Mr. H. Jackson, F.R.I.B.A., Consulting Architect, for permanent houses to be erected on another portion of the Denbigh Estate. These were approved as were Mr. Jackson's alternative plans for the provision of 590 houses on part of the Upper Church Lane Estate. The question of shops on the housing estates was deferred for the moment. The possibility of using the Intermediate Hostel on the Upper Church Lane Estate for accommodating several large families was considered and the Ministry of Health were urged to give their decision on the future use of the premises at an early date.

In February, the decision was taken to set up a Direct Labour Department for the erection of houses under the supervision of the Borough Surveyor.

In March it was decided to employ an Architectural Assistant for housing purposes in the Borough Surveyor's Department and approval was received from the Ministry of Health for the lay-out of a further 96 houses on the Denbigh Estate. The decision was taken to purchase compulsorily for the purpose of houses, two areas adjacent to Tipton Station.

In May, the Council decided to abolish the previous scheme of allocation and to put into force a "points scheme". This scheme, which has several times been amended with a view to improving it, is still in force. During the summer recess a special report on the points scheme and other matters connected with housing was submitted by the Medical Officer of Health. It is therefore not necessary to comment further on the points scheme here.

In the summer 26 temporary bungalows (20 at Moors Mill Lane and 6 at Factory Road) were completed and the new tenants entered into possession. On the whole the tenants expressed themselves well satisfied with these dwellings and it is a matter of regret that there are not any more like them available for the young married folk of the town and their children.

In August "squatters" entered into and took possession of the Intermediate Hostel, Upper Church Lane. This building, the property of the Ministry of Health, had some time before been vacated by the Military and the Corporation had been in negotiation with the Ministry with a view to obtaining sanction to use it for housing purposes. They had been unable to obtain any definite ruling from the Ministry. The Ministry authorised the Corporation to carry out certain minimum works in this building with a view to providing such services as heating, lighting and water. This matter will be referred to later.

In October attention was drawn by the Medical Officer of Health to eight houses which were not only insanitary, but structurally dangerous to the occupants and Official Representations under the Housing Act, 1936, were submitted. It was resolved to give the inhabitants of these houses special priority for re-housing.

Towards the end of the year a small Sub-Committee was set up to deal with allocations, transfers and exchanges and all matters regarding the interpretation of the points scheme and connected with the allocation of houses and stand referred to that Sub-Committee. This has proved a practical and forward move.

In December it was decided to set up an entirely separate Housing Architect's Department to deal with the building of Council Houses and the Borough Surveyor was relieved of duties in connection therewith.

Despite delays due to non-arrival of materials and other unavoidable matters, the building of houses on the Powis Avenue, Upper Church Lane and Denbigh Estates proceeded apace and at the end of the year 22 houses in Powis Avenue had been built and occupied, a number on the Upper Church Lane Estate were approaching completion, while 6 on the Denbigh Estate were already occupied and many more were approaching completion.

Intermediate Hostel.

The Intermediate Hostel on the Upper Church Lane Estate was built during the war in order to house temporarily families displaced by enemy action. It is a prefabricated structure and contains a number of rooms which can be inhabited by different families with communal cooking, washing and lavatory facilities. While somewhat austere, it is quite suitable for the purpose for which it was built and might prove, if it were to pass into the possession of the Authority, very useful for the temporary accommodation of families during (a) transfer from one house to another, (b) extensive repair of their own house, (c) disinfection proceedings. It is not suitable for permanent habitation and therefore cannot be used for the permanent housing of families too large for the ordinary Council house.

At the same time, it is a building that might be converted for use as a Clinic or as a Social Centre serving the large estate contiguous to which it is. With the grounds adjacent to it tastefully laid out, it can be made not unsightly. At present it is an eyesore.

In August it was vacant, the Military having left it a few weeks before. Almost every window in it was broken. At this juncture seven families of "squatters" entered into it and took possession. They were still there at the end of the year.

A report on the essential work which it would be necessary to carry out in order to make the place even temporarily habitable, was submitted by the Medical Officer of Health, and suggestions on the running of the Hostel were added. Effect was given to some of these suggestions with the permission of the Ministry of Health and minimum essential services were provided, i.e. water, light, bins etc. Apart from the communal cooking room, each family installed a stove of its own choosing and they made themselves for a period fairly comfortable. But this temporary comfort in the summer should not delude anyone into thinking that this place is suitable for long term habitation by one or more families. The absence of proper cooking facilities, of provision for the storage of food and of privacy for either ablution or use of the lavatory, are only some of the unfavourable factors. The place, if it continues to be inhabited in this way, will degenerate into an unsavoury slum.

The suggestion was made that the Council might take over the Hostel, "squatters" and all. This the Council declined to do. It was then suggested that the Council should act as agents for the collection of rents and the management of the Hostel.

Up to the end of the year these families continued to reside in the Hostel paying neither rent nor rates, but with the onset of winter disillusionment and discomfort were beginning to manifest themselves. The continuation of this situation is to be deprecated.

In August a large house under requisition by the County Council was taken possession of by three families of "squatters". Two of them departed under threat of legal prosecution and the third as a result of such proceedings. The house is now being made fit for occupation.

Towards the end of the year the Council decided to requisition a large private house overlooking the Park, but they have since accepted an offer of sale to the Council by the owner. It is the Council's intention to convert this house into four flats.

The actual experience of those families who have had prefabricated bungalows allotted to them, has done much to remove the erroneous impression that "prefabs" were inferior or second rate accommodation. No other prejudice remains to be removed and this is the prejudice which is alleged to exist in these parts against flats. That prejudice springs in my view from sheer inexperience of life in flats and of the advantages which it holds out to certain types of family. It is possible by the judicious provision of flats to eliminate an amazing amount of unnecessary transport and time such as going to and from work and shopping. Tipton is a town with very little space left on which houses can be built. As New York found out years ago, when you cannot spread it is time to think of building up. My view is that the type of flat most suitable to Tipton would be a fairly large block of centrally heated flats with a resident caretaker staff on the premises. Such a block convenient to the Owen Street shopping centre and another in the Great Bridge neighbourhood, would in my view greatly relieve our housing troubles. Owing to the alleged prejudice against flats, this matter is not receiving, up to the moment, adequate consideration.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The number of visits paid during the year by Health Visitors:-

to expectant mothers	First Visits	803
	Total Visits	1097
to children under one year of age	First Visits	860
	Total Visits	2314
to children between the ages of one and five	Total Visits	2012
Total visits paid by Health Visitors for the year		5423

Attendances at all Welfare Centres.

	<u>Central Clinic</u>	<u>Burnt Tree</u>	<u>Ocker Hill</u>	<u>Tipton Green</u>
No. of attendances by:-				
1. Children under one year	2836	1111	1318	2162
2. Children between one and five years	1090	352	538	378

The total number of children who first attended at the Centres during the year and who on the date of their first attendance were under one year of age was 520 representing 65.5% of the notified live births.

Defects found in children attending the Centres:-

Debility	5
Malnutrition	10
Improper feeding	5
Skin Diseases	24
Tonsils and Adenoids	2
Phimosis	26
Umbilical hernia	19
Crippling defects	6
Eye defects	8
Inguinal hernia	1
Rickets	2
Diarrhoea and Sickness	3
Miscellaneous	42

The number of children under five treated at the Minor Ailments Clinics was 259 of whom 213 were new cases and 46 were old cases. The total attendances numbered 476.

Children treated at the Ophthalmic Clinic.

<u>Diseases</u>	<u>Treatment recommended</u>	<u>Total</u>
Squint	Spectacles prescribed	10
? squint	Spectacles not prescribed	6
Conjunctivitis	Clinic treatment	19
Obstructed tear duct	Referred to hospital	3
Other conditions	Treatment advised	4
Retests	Advised	2

Three cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified during the year. In no case was there permanent impairment of vision.

The Dental Clinic for children under five and for nursing and expectant mothers was held weekly on Friday afternoons. Some dozen infants attended for treatment.

The number of children on the Child Life Protection Register was one and the number of persons receiving children for reward at the end of the year was one.

The Ante Natal Clinic is held on Friday afternoons, 316 women attended for examination for the first time. The attendances totalled 636 plus 3 post natal.

The following conditions were found necessitating treatment:-

Toxaemia	9
Disproportion	5
Requiring:-	
Induction	8
Caesarian	2
X-Ray	7
Version	2

Dental sessions for ante and post natal mothers were held on Friday afternoons. During 1946, 37 expectant and nursing mothers made 91 attendances; 165 teeth were extracted; 14 fillings; 9 scalings and 31 cases were advised. Dentures were provided in 4 cases.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

No. of Midwives practising at the end of the year:-

Tipton Nursing Association	4
Private Midwives	3
Others	1

No. of cases attended during the year:-

	<u>As Midwives</u>	<u>As Maternity Nurses.</u>
Tipton Nursing Association	290	20
Private Midwives	293	37
Others	3	-

Eight Midwives gave Notification of Intention to Practice in this area during the year 1946, but one of those was a Midwife living in an adjacent area who took occasional cases in Tipton. Of the remaining seven, four were Midwives employed by the Tipton Nursing Association under their agreement with the Council and three were private Midwives.

60 cases of difficult labour or abnormal pregnancy (resulting in 44 live and 4 still births) were removed to Hallam Hospital, West Bromwich, under the Council's scheme, and 6 delicate or premature babies were hospitalised there; 42 cases (resulting in 41 live and 1 still birth) where home conditions were insanitary or overcrowded, were confined at the Maternity Homes of the Staffordshire County Council under the Council's agreement with that Authority. Some 44 cases were confined in Private Nursing Homes or at the homes of relatives outside the Borough. The remainder, amounting to approximately 670 were confined at home and for these the domiciliary Midwives were sufficient.

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.

No. of babies notified as premature in Tipton in 1946:-

<u>At Home</u>	<u>In Hospital or Nursing Homes.</u>
31	16

Six premature children died in Tipton during the year as a result of their premature birth and seven in Hospitals or Nursing Homes outside the Borough.

The Maternity & Child Welfare Committee have throughout the year continued to devote special care to the premature infants born in the town. The two specially heated cots and the outfits of baby clothes

which the Committee purchased in 1945 have been frequently called upon and by working in conjunction with the Borough Ambulance staff it has been possible to get them to any house in Tipton within 20 minutes of the receipt of a 'phone message from the Doctor or Midwife requesting them. Our view still is that hospitalisation is desirable in most cases owing to general environmental conditions. There is another reason for this. Owing to the great sociability and good neighbourliness of the people it is useless to point out that the child and its mother should be to all intents and purposes, isolated and that the child is exceedingly susceptible to infection. The Midwife and Health Visitor will probably cleanse their hands and wear a mask when handling the child but in between it will be displayed with pride to innumerable visitors of either sex and all ages and if not actually handled by them, will be breathed upon. For exactly the same reason the mother who is confined at home does not get a fair chance to rest and to convalesce. It will take years of painstaking advice and education to eradicate these pleasant but dangerous social habits.

The Committee concentrated on their measures for securing ~~confinement~~ in Hospital of all cases likely to prove difficult or abnormal deliveries and of all cases where the home is overcrowded or insanitary or where there is no proper provision for care of the mother and child.

The Committee are anxious as soon as they are able to establish their Home Help and Domestic Service for cases of confinement, but owing to the continued demands of local industry for female labour, it did not prove possible in 1946 to obtain suitable Home Helps. The matter will not be overlooked.

CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

During the year 12 illegitimate children were born in Tipton most of which presented no particular problem being **reared in the house** where the mother lived. Special care is however taken by the Health Visitors in these cases and particular effort is made to ensure that they become regular attendants at the Welfare Centres.

In accordance with the Council's agreement under Circular 2866 with the Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare, several cases requiring special investigation and social guidance were referred to them.

SEPARATE COTS FOR INFANTS.

Several deaths have occurred during recent years in Tipton directly due to very young children sleeping in the same bed as adults. The attention of Midwives, Doctors and Health Visitors has been drawn to this; advice regarding the provision of separate cots is given at the earliest stages in ante natal and infant visiting and a special letter from the Medical Officer of Health is sent to every parent or guardian who has not made this necessary provision. This unnecessary wastage of infant life must be absolutely eliminated.

DAY NURSERY.

On the 1st April, 1946 the Tipton Borough Council, having as a Welfare Authority, submitted a scheme, took over the former Tipton Wartime Day Nursery which had been administered on behalf of the Ministry of Health. There are 55 places in this Nursery and it has remained full throughout the year with an average waiting list of at least 30.

A comprehensive report on the war time and peace time use of the Day Nursery was laid before the Council early in the year.

Being no longer linked with war production, the Council were able to develop the Nursery in the interests of child health rather than man power. The whole question of admissions and charges at the Nursery was thoroughly gone into and the Council authorised the giving of priority to certain classes of infants:-

1. Illegitimate children where the mother had to work.
2. Children whose mothers were dead, ill or insane.
3. Children whose parents were separated.
4. Neglected children.
5. Delicate children.
6. Children from insanitary homes.
7. Children of essential workers.

The result of this policy has been to fill the Nursery with precisely those children who need its care most and to make it an invaluable part of the child health service of the town.

It is hoped in the near future to develop the teaching of mothercraft at the Nursery as it is felt that there is an immense field in the education and training of mothers here.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

During the course of 1946 the Ambulance Service continued to perform its functions. A special report on the Ambulance Service and on its detailed working was presented to the Chairman of the appropriate Committee in December. A Sub-Committee was appointed and empowered to make any alterations necessary to increase the efficiency of the Ambulance Service during the few months which it will be the responsibility of this Authority.

LEGISLATION.

Two great measures have reached the Statute Book during 1946 and will shortly become operative.

1. The National Insurance Act, 1946.

This great Act which is the implementation and adaptation of the Beveridge Report is intended to extend the benefits of National Health and Unemployment Insurance to all sorts of workers. Broadly speaking the rates of Unemployment and Sickness Benefit will greatly increase, while Maternity Benefits, Family Allowances and other grants are made available. This great measure, both by the increased benefits and by relieving the public of the fear of vicissitude and of great anxieties, cannot fail to do much to improve the public health.

Family allowances became operative in August, 1946. They are better than nothing but are pitifully small and in my judgment it is a great pity that they do not apply to the first child. The wisdom of Parliament has made them payable to the mother but as this can be nullified by a simple deduction of 5/- from the house-keeping money, that precaution (if it was one) would seem to accomplish little. But already in the four closing months of the year the beneficial effects of these allowances on large families was becoming obvious.

2. The National Health Service Act, 1946.

The National Health Service Act, 1946 received the Royal Assent towards the end of the year. It purports to set up a free and comprehensive Health Service.

As a special report on the Act was rendered by me to the Council I will confine myself to one or two very brief comments:-

- i. That the Act is on the whole a good Act and will be of enormous benefit to the public of this country.

ii. That the "nationalisation" of Hospitals, T.B. Services, V.D., Maternity Homes, Consultants and Specialists etc., will tend to provide a Service of the same standard all over England and Wales. This is obviously equitable and one hopes the standard will be high.

iii. The limiting of the future Local Health Authorities to the Councils of Counties and County Boroughs, follows the principle of the Education Act, 1944. It shows to my mind too meticulous a devotion to old time geography and old time Local Government boundaries.

iv. The Bill has evoked great hostility on the part of the Medical Profession who are especially concerned with the provisions for general practice. I do not entirely share their hostility to it but I understand it, and must say frankly that unless the Profession is induced to enter this Service willingly and enthusiastically, the Public will not have the treatment they expect. It is essential that the Public should have the service of the Doctors who are willing to treat them and happy in the conditions under which they work.

v. The carrying out of this great Act will require large numbers of Medical, Nursing, Administrative and Clerical staff and many entirely new buildings. The number of Doctors in the country is below what is necessary, the nursing and staffing situation is critical and it does not seem likely that Public opinion will tolerate the erection of many buildings until the demand for homes is met. Full implementation of this Act cannot in my view be expected for ten years and probably much more.

CARE OF THE AGED.

A leading feature of the Blackpool Conference of the Royal Sanitary Institute for 1946 and a subject referred to frequently in the medical journals throughout the year, was the care of aged persons. This is a matter today of very great importance for various reasons:-

1. Owing to the progressive decline of the birth rate in the years between the two great wars, there will shortly come a time when old people will form a much higher percentage of the population than at present. This proportion is further increased by the steady rise during this century of the expectation of life of the average Briton.

2. We are told that we are passing through a manpower crisis and also that the raising of the school leaving age to fifteen on the 1st April, 1947, will result in depriving industry of some 300,000 young workers. It would therefore seem all the more important that we should carefully preserve for work in industry those older people who are able and desirous of continuing to work and to give some service towards the country's industrial recovery.

3. The expansion of Public Health in recent years and its concentration on the special care and defence of those sections of the community least able to look after themselves, makes it rather curious that a definite service for the care of aged persons has only in one or two instances been attempted. We have our Welfare Centres for the young, domiciliary visitation and advice, and special priorities in food and vitamins. We do not offer any corresponding provision for the aged.

4. On the social side it is not always remembered that many old people live in a state of social isolation and loneliness, even if living with other or younger people. Often the old person is out of the current of family life, in a kind of backwater, and is made to feel rather useless and his or her continued existence rather purposeless. There is a tremendous field for activity here.

One may divide old persons broadly into three classes:-

1. Those who are able to work. If they wish there is probably nothing better for them, both for their happiness and to give them a

little spending power, and they should be encouraged to suitable work. If they definitely do not wish to work they have the rights of those who have borne the burden and heat of the day and ought to be permitted to rest on their pensions.

2. Those old persons who are thoroughly able to look after themselves. For them two things are required - care for their health and the provision of a useful social existence. It is to be regretted that the former club known as "The Sons of Rest" finally petered out about two years ago and of course it only catered for the male sex. Some sort of club life is of very great help to some old folk, but I would suggest that they should not be confined to the society of other old folk only. Old women need a social life as well as old men. Provision of Club Centres where old folk can not only have social intercourse, but where hobbies, some of them profitable, can be pursued and other social activities such as games and entertainments can be indulged in and some refreshment obtained, would seem very necessary. For those whose inclinations are more domestic, the provision of reading matter, hearing aids when necessary, and facilities for light work or hobbies, would go a long way to give these people a sense of independence and worthwhile citizenship.

3. Lastly, one comes to the old people who, owing to infirmity of mind or body, cannot take care of themselves and who are approaching the stage of being a burden or a nuisance to others. For some of them the loving care of younger members of the family may suffice, but there are limits to that. One has too often in the past seen a young woman who would have made a splendid wife or mother, sacrificed to the care of an aged parent.

For others, particularly the blind, the paralysed and those suffering from senile dementia, the only remedy would seem to be institutional care. There are those who think that these aged and now useless persons are not worth the expense involved in maintaining institutions and staff to look after them. They may not be, but this country is bound by its traditions of humanity and its longstanding custom of kindness to the aged. British public opinion will never tolerate the lethal chamber.

For aged persons of the first two kinds i.e. workers and those able to look after themselves, there should be a voluntary Clinic where their little ailments and troubles can be sympathetically gone into and where they can be periodically medically examined. That would not take the place of their own Doctor but would tend to make it certain that little ailments which might advance to the state of causing them suffering and real illness, could be referred to their own Doctors at an early stage. That Clinic could be united to a service of domiciliary visitation.

It is my belief that in the near future, a service of care for the aged, (which is above all one where Local Authority efforts can be greatly enhanced by voluntary help), will develop and will become a recognised part of the duties of Public Health Authorities.

The Council has for many years made special provision for the housing of old persons in bungalows. For many aged couples that is the ideal provision; for single or widowed old folk, one may have to look further. To some the sense of independence matters most and separate accommodation is what is wanted. For others more sociable and perhaps less well able to look after themselves one thinks of a building where separate bed sitting accommodation would exist but where meals and recreation might be partaken of communally. In a sense that amounts to service flats for old people with, in larger groupings, a resident person in charge preferably a trained nurse, and provision for some degree of domestic help.

In designing accommodation for old persons, there are certain points worth remembering:-

1. The avoidance where possible of stairs.
2. Apartments easily warmed.
3. Convenience to shopping and recreational facilities.
4. No outside lavatories or fuel stores.
5. Shelves and cupboards etc., easy of access (old people should not have to stand on chairs).
6. A sheltered verandah and/or a pleasant common garden where the old folk could sit in pleasant weather.

I am convinced that to set aside a separate area for old peoples' dwellings would be a mistake. Admission to such would seem like sentence of death with stay of execution. They should not be made to feel that they are an unwanted and somewhat redundant section of the community.

CREMATORIUM.

One views with melancholy regret the continued expansion of the Tipton Borough Cemetery, not only because as life advances it is perhaps a solemn thought how many people are dead, but because the Cemetery renders for ever useless an expanding area of land in a town where land to build houses is lamentably short. One wonders has the time not come to consider that ancient and extremely sanitary method of disposal of the dead known as cremation. A modern Crematorium can be a thing of beauty, it can provide a medium for the expression of all the religious and sentimental feelings that one has for the dead, yet it does not take much space nor does it encumber an area of land with gravestones which are meaningless after a generation has passed and the persons whose names are inscribed on them are forgotten. The Mortuary was blitzed in 1940 and temporary accommodation has for too long been found in an unsightly private house adjacent to the Clinic. Surely there is a wonderful opportunity to consider the whole question of whether a tasteful Crematorium centrally situated in the Black Country as Tipton is, could not be built at the same time as a new Mortuary. The Crematorium Services of the Midlands are not very extensive and one feels that such an establishment could also provide a Service for many of our neighbours and probably be in great demand and would pay its way.

CONCLUSION.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health in previous years, this report has been abridged and curtailed.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the sanitary administration of the Borough for the year 1946.

Although working with a depleted staff for a lengthy period the total visits paid by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year numbered 4233 as against 3227 in 1945. This increase is mainly due to visits under the Shops Act, Foods and Drugs Act and a large increase in the complaint rate. In respect of the latter it is noticeable that 80% of the complaints are from occupiers of old and insanitary working class dwellings which have inevitably deteriorated and it is hoped that in the very near future it will be possible to take appropriate action under the Housing Act.

During the year a large amount of time has been devoted to inspections of Shops under the Shops and Food and Drugs Acts. This branch of work had to be curtailed during the war years and every effort has been made and a lot of work carried out to obtain compliance with the above mentioned Acts.

The Ministry of Food Centralised Slaughterhouse occupied a large proportion of time and attention of the Staff in meat inspection and 51920 animals were slaughtered and inspected during the year as compared with the figure of 52185 for 1945.

The results of milk samples taken for analysis again show a slight improvement on previous years and improvements to buildings and plants of dairies are still being carried out to ensure a cleaner and safer milk supply.

A sanitary survey of the Borough was commenced in the latter part of the year and will be presented in 1947.

Comments on other branches of work carried out are given in later pages.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their confidence, the Medical Officer of Health for his encouragement and support and the whole of the staff for their splendid services.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

G.H. ACTON.

Chief Sanitary Inspector,

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

The total number of visits and inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors totalled 4233 and are summarised below.

In addition, 507 preliminary notices and 34 statutory notices were served under the Public Health Act.

SUMMARY OF VISITS, INSPECTION ETC. MADE.

Houses inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts.	397
Re-inspections in respect of notices served.	1072
No. of nuisances discovered in course of District inspection	137
Visits to Centralised Government Slaughterhouse and private slaughter.	667
Visits under the Factory Act.	79
Visits re Overcrowding, Rehousing etc.	102
Visits to tents, vans, sheds etc.	5
Visits to markets	30
Visits to cowsheds, dairies, milkshops.	46
Visits re Petroleum Regulations.	105
Visits re defective and obstructed drains.	250
Visits to vermin-infested and dirty houses.	43
Visits re Infectious and Contagious Diseases	140
Visits under the Shops Act.	527
Visits under the Rat and Mice Destruction Act.	58
Visits to Food Premises under the Food and Drugs Act, etc.	173
Visits to Cinemas and Schools.	20
Visits to Canal Boats	35
Visits to Stables	16
Visits re Smoke Abatement	7
Visits re Sanitary Survey.	121
Miscellaneous visits.	203
Total	4233

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

No. of visits made by the Sanitary Inspectors.	140
No. of disinfections carried out	129

DISINFESTATION.

It has not been found possible to utilise H.C.N. in the work of disinfestation, but 104 Council houses and 28 privately owned dwelling houses infested with vermin were fumigated (Thermatox fumigators) and treated with liquid insecticides having a D.D.T. base, and in certain cases D.D.T. powder and Gammexane were used. Sanction having been granted it is expected that a Steam Disinfector plant will be installed by the middle of 1947.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

During the year 596 visits were paid to the Ministry of Food Centralised Slaughterhouse and 71 visits were made re private slaughter of pigs by the Sanitary Inspectors. The number of animals inspected was 51,920 made up as follows:-

Beasts ..	...	...	8772
Calves ..	...	...	5437
Sheep and Lambs ..	...	...	29514
Pigs ..	...	...	8197

In addition 60 visits were paid to Food Shops, Canteens and other premises for the inspection of unsound food.

The total amount of meat and other foodstuffs condemned as being unfit for human consumption was as follows:-

Description of Food.	Tons	Cwts	Qrs	Lbs
Butchers meat from Centralised Slaughterhouse etc.	92	2	0	23
Paeon etc.	-	-	2	16
Sugar	-	-	-	14
Butter and Margarine	-	1	2	22
Cheese	-	-	2	15
Sausages	-	-	-	16
Fruit and Vegetables	-	5	0	3
<u>CANNED GOODS.</u>				
Canned Meat	1	5	2	24
Canned Milk	-	4	3	15
Canned Vegetables & Fruit	-	1	0	25
Canned Jams	-	-	1	11
Canned Fish	-	-	1	15
Miscellaneous	-	-	1	10
T O T A L S	94	3	1	13

The undermentioned table shows the total carcasses inspected and the number condemned and carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned at the Government Centralised Slaughterhouse. The number of cattle affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis showed a substantial increase on last year's figures and this is mainly accounted for by another marked increase in parasitic diseases. The number of organs of cattle condemned on account of parasitic diseases has steadily risen during the last few years to a substantial figure.

The number of animals affected with generalised or localised Tuberculosis is again a very high one and is mainly accounted for by the weeding out at the farms, of poor and aged cows a proportion of which are sent for slaughter to provide meat for manufacturing purposes. The final destination of some of these animals should have been the knacker's yard and not the slaughterhouse.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

(Return as required by the Ministry of Health).

	Cattle (exclud- ing Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	6108 (6503)	2664 (1937)	5437 (3829)	29,514 (30,040)	8197 (9796)
Number inspected	"	"	"	"	"
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS Whole carcasses condemned	4 (Nil)	6 (20)	34 (17)	34 (38)	6 (8)
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	1065 (830)	797 (465)	32 (17)	2405 (1838)	87 (184)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	17.50 (12.76)	30.14 (25.03)	1.21 (0.89)	8.26 (6.20)	1.13 (1.90)
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.</u> Whole carcasses condemned	12 (8)	81 (92)	24 (4)	- -	9 (8)
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	660 (446)	996 (722)	10 (9)	- -	704 (665)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	11.00 (6.98)	40.43 (42.02)	0.63 (0.34)	- -	8.7 (6.8)

(Government Centralised Slaughterhouse catering for the Boroughs of Oldbury, Rowley Regis, Tipton and West Bromwich)

Figures in brackets are for the year 1945.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

37 applications for the renewal of existing licences to slaughter or stun animals under the above Act were granted. Three new licences were also granted.

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1938.

5 cows were sent into the Centralised Slaughterhouse for slaughter by Veterinary Officers under the above order and in two instances the animals were found to be affected with Generalised Tuberculosis and the remaining three with Localised Tuberculosis.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

No. of fish friers premises registered	41
No. of premises registered and used for the sale, storage or manufacture of Ice Cream	32
No. of premises registered and used for the sale, storage or manufacture of preserved foods	8

327 Food shops were inspected during the year and the following work carried out under Section 13 of the above Act at the instigation of the Department:-

Fish friers premises cleansed and redecorated---	---	5
Other food premises cleansed and redecorated ---	---	5
Premises repaired ---	---	6
Sinks installed and water supply provided to discharge over same - ---	---	9
Drainage reconstructed - ---	---	1
Premises paved at rear - ---	---	4
Preparation rooms repaired and cleansed ---	---	2

In respect of the premises used for the sale and manufacture of ice-cream it will be necessary to review the whole position in view of the proposed Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations to be issued in the very near future. It is to be noted however, that the premises and plant used by one wholesaler who supplies the bulk of the ice-cream sold in the Borough is being extended and improved in anticipation of these Regulations.

FARMS AND DAIRIES.

During the year periodical visits were paid to the farms and dairies. In respect of the two Dairies carrying out a large wholesale trade, new modern plant and improvements to existing buildings were carried out which has resulted in an improved and cleaner milk supply.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

57 samples of milk were obtained by this Authority during the year for bacteriological examination (50 for examination as to cleanliness and 7 for the presence of T.B. bacilli) and the results of same are shown in the following table.

Of the 13 samples of Accredited milk, 7 were taken in course of delivery from farms situated outside the Borough to dairies inside the Borough and 4 of these samples were unsatisfactory. In each of these four cases the Local Authority in which the farm supplying the milk was situated was informed with a view to necessary action being taken to ensure a cleaner and better supply. Results of samples of accredited milk taken during the last few years would indicate that conditions at some of the producing farms could be improved.

The samples of pasteurised milk show a slight improvement on previous years.

Grade of Milk	No. of Samples	Tests Applied	Results	
			Satis	Unsatis.
1. Pasteurised	24	Methylene Blue Phosphatase	22 23	2 1
2. Accredited	13X	Methylene Blue Coliform Organisms	9 11	4 2
3. Tuberculin Tested	1	Methylene Blue	1	-
4. Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	3	Methylene Blue Phosphatase	3 3	- -
5. Heat Treated	5	Methylene Blue Phosphatase	4 5	1 -
6. Sterilised	4	Methylene Blue Phosphatase	4 4	- -
7. Raw Milk	1	T.B. bacilli content	Neg.	-
8. Pasteurised	6	" " "	Neg.	-

X Seven of these samples taken in course of delivery from farm to dairy.

Summary of Percentages.

Milk examined for efficiency of heat treatment (Phosphatase Test)	3%	Unsatisfactory
Milk examined for its keeping qualities (Methylene Blue Test)	15%	Unsatisfactory.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936/1938.

The following licences under the above Order were in force:-

Two Dealers Bottling Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk
One " " " " Accredited Milk
Two " Pasteurisers licences for Pasteurised Milk
Five " Retailers licences for Accredited Milk
Two " " " " Pasteurised Milk
One " " " " Tuberculin Tested Milk
Eleven supplementary licences in respect of Tuberculin Tested, Accredited and Pasteurised Milk

HOUSING.

The housing situation in the Borough is still very difficult and much time has been devoted by the Department with work created by the "Points Scheme" in respect of allocation of Council houses.

During the year 29 cases of overcrowding were re-housed into Council houses and 33 new cases of overcrowding reported making a total of approx. 700 overcrowding cases to be dealt with. The majority of overcrowding has been caused by members of families being married and having to remain with their parents and these cases amount to approximately one third of the total of over 2000 applicants for new houses. The bulk of the remaining applicants are (1) people who are provided with housing accommodation but are desirous of taking advantage of the increased amenities etc. provided in modern new houses; (2) those who are living in insanitary dwellings which should be dealt with by Slum Clearance and (3) young married couples staying with their parents and not living in overcrowded conditions. It must therefore be recognised that shortage of actual accommodation in the Borough is not as acute as imagined and a glance at the undermentioned table will show that the average family unit per house and the average number of persons per room is smaller than heretofore.

Year	No. of houses in the Borough	Average No. of persons per house	Average No. of persons per room
1921	7375	4.63	1.14
1931	7796	4.60	1.11
1946	9308	4.0	0.92

SLUM CLEARANCE.

No houses were dealt with during the year, but one house after the removal of a family to a bungalow was voluntarily closed by the Owner after representation from this Department, and one house previously condemned was demolished.

The following table shows the total number of houses dealt with under the Housing Act from 1931, the commencement of the scheme, to 31st December, 1946.

	Total No. of Houses	Total No. Demolished	Total No of persons displaced
91 Clearance areas	1321	1281	6201
Individual unfit houses & Caravans in respect of which Demolition Orders have been made.	488	458	2312
Parts of Buildings in respect of which Closing Orders have been made.	11	1	58
Individual Unfit houses in respect of which Undertakings have been accepted.	3	-	18
Individual Unfit houses and Caravans demolished in anticipation of Demolition Orders	5	5	23
Total	1828	1745	8612

Certificates as to the condition of the Houses.

One certificate was granted under Sec. 51, Housing Act, 1936 in respect of one dwelling house which was rendered reasonably fit for human habitation.

Requisitioned and Licensed Houses.

There are still 10 requisitioned and 16 houses licensed under the Defence Regulations. These are all condemned under the Housing Act and owing to their condition the families occupying these dwellings should be given priority for rehousing into Council houses.

Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1933, Sec. 12.

One certificate under the above Act was granted by the Local Authority

CANAL BOATS.

34 Canal Boats were inspected and in two instances notices to the Owners were sent in respect of contravention of the Act and these were remedied.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are 3 premises where offensive trades are carried out. These were regularly inspected and found to be satisfactory..

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

527 visits were paid to Shops in the Borough and where necessary action has and is being taken to ensure that the provisions of the above Act are complied with. This work had to be curtailed during the war years but on the whole conditions at these shops were found to be satisfactory.

INSPECTION ON COMPLAINT.

The number of complaints registered during the year was 563 as against 457 in 1945.

On investigation of these complaints 846 defects were revealed and these are classified in the following table:-

DEFECTS REVEALED IN HOUSES ETC. VISITED ON COMPLAINT.

W.C. and yard drains choked	186
Defective drains	9
Defective sinks and sink waste pipes	6
Defective inspection chambers	3
Defective waste and surface water gullies	3
Defective ventilation and soil pipes to drains	3
Defective condition of W.C. buildings	10
Defective W.C. fittings	50
Defective yard paving	2
Defective water supply pipes	17
Inadequate and not readily accessible water supply	3
Defective roofs, eavesguttering and downspouts	177
Defective woodwork etc. to windows and doors	49
Defective cords to sash windows	21
Defective staircases	7
Defective wall and ceiling plaster	72
Defective floors	19
Defective ovens, boilers and fireplaces etc.	20
Dampness	10
Defective external brickwork to houses	24
Defective chimney flues and stacks	13
Defective wash-house buildings	10
Defective boilers and parts to wash-houses	11
Flooded condition of cellars	9
Dirty condition of walls and ceilings	6
Dirty condition of houses	2
Dirty condition of food premises	1
Verminous condition of premises	22
Accumulation of refuse etc.	4
Offensive smells	6
Keeping of animals so as to be a nuisance	13
Overcrowding	13
Rat and mice infestation	34
Miscellaneous	11

846

STATEMENT OF REMOVAL OF SANITARY DEFECTS-
AND NUISANCES IN AND AROUND DWELLINGS.

During the year under review 507 preliminary and 34 statutory notices were served for the abatement of nuisances and the remedy of sanitary defects in and around dwellings and the following table shows the nature of the work actually carried out.

<u>Nature of Work done.</u>	<u>No.</u>
<u>HOUSES.</u>	
Repaired and renovated throughout	2
Roofs repaired	249
Eavesguttering and rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	58
Chimney stacks repaired	11
External walls rebuilt, repaired or cement rendered	20
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired	112
Bedrooms and living rooms renovated	16
Dirty houses cleansed	4
Floors repaired or renewed	28
Fixed windows made to open	3
Windows and frames repaired or renewed	76
Windows provided with new sash cords	75
Doors repaired or renewed	20
General house fittings repaired or renewed (boilers, fireranges etc.)	22
Staircases repaired or renewed	9
Separate water supply provided	8
Additional wash-houses provided	4
Washing facilities provided	2
Glazed sinks provided in lieu of brick and quarry sills	7
Sinks renewed	5
Sink waste pipes renewed	6
Wash-houses rebuilt or repaired	34
Water supply laid on to wash-houses	5
Chimney flues repaired	11
Wash-house coppers, firegrates etc. renewed	34
Water supply pipes repaired or renewed	40
Cover to cellar areas renewed	5
<u>DRAINAGE.</u>	
Drains opened or cleansed	207
Main drains reconstructed and extended	2
W.C. branch drains repaired or reconstructed	13
Waste and surface water drains repaired or reconstructed	5
Additional inspection chambers installed	4
Inspection chambers repaired	3
New covers to inspection chambers	7
Ventilation pipes renewed or repaired	4
Additional gullies to drains provided	5
New intercepting and gully traps fitted	6
<u>YARDS, PASSAGES ETC.</u>	
Yard surfaces repaired	3
Yard boundary walls repaired	5
Passage surfaces repaired	3

CLOSETS.

Additional water closets provided	17
W.C. buildings repaired or reconstructed	39
New W.C. pedestal pans fitted	47
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed	51
Flush water supply pipes etc. repaired or renewed	38
Seats to W.C. pans renewed	21
*Midden privies and pail closets abolished	5
Water closets on the trough system abolished and pedestal closets installed	16

ACCUMULATIONS.

Offensive accumulations removed	4
Stagnant water removed	5

GENERAL.

Stables limewashed and cleansed	3
Insanitary stables discontinued	1
Stable provided with middenstead and proper drainage	1
Keeping of animals so as to be a nuisance discontinued	8
Housing of Caravans so as to be a nuisance discontinued	2
* Note:- See also under Factory Act.	

RAT AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919 AND THE INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

(a) Premises dealt with on complaint.

58 visits were paid to premises and land in response to complaints of rat and mice infestation and 40 infestations were successfully dealt with which resulted in 66 dead bodies being found and an estimated number of 382 rats destroyed.

(b) Maintenance Treatment of Sewers.

A maintenance treatment of sewers for the destruction of rats was carried out during the middle of the year by a squad of 3 men and approximately 70 manholes were treated daily. The procedure adopted was that as recommended by the Infestation Department of the Ministry of Food, namely, the laying of unpoisoned bait on the first two days and poisoned bait on the third day.

The bait used was sausage rus' and the poison zinc phosphide.

The results showed that no major infestation existed and that previous treatments had substantially reduced the rat population. A 10% test bait revealed no fresh infestation and it is interesting to note that the number of surface rat infestations has been considerably reduced since the advent of treating sewers.

The following is a summary of Manholes treated and results obtained:-

Total manholes baited	440
Manholes with complete prebait takes on both days	43
Manholes with partial prebait takes	138
Manholes with "No takes"	259

It is hoped that the second treatment will be carried out before the end of March, 1947.

(c) Private dwellings - Special Scheme 1946/47

In accordance with Ministry of Food (Infestation Division) Circular NS12/46 the Local Authority agreed to carry out an approved systematic campaign of rat destruction throughout the Borough. This involved the surveying and treatment where necessary of brook courses, canal basins, business premises, houses etc.

The following is a summary of the results obtained:-

No. of major infestations discovered and treated	2
No. of minor " " " "	231
No. of minor infestations receiving 2nd treatment	66
No. " " " cleared	211
Total number of baiting points	1341
Complete poison takes	23
Partial " "	554
Total number of dead rats found	86

The poisons used were Zinc Phosphide, Arsenic and Red Squill.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

There are at present 144 factories on the factory register. During the year under review 79 visits were paid to these factories and the following work carried out after informal action from this Department. It is pleasing to record the willing co-operation given by the managements of factories and in several cases reconstruction schemes in respect of sanitary accommodation has been carried out.

The following table shows the amount of work done:-

Existing sanitary conveniences (mostly on the trough system) abolished and new W.C. pedestals provided	77
Additional sanitary conveniences provided	8
Sanitary conveniences provided with intervening ventilated space	9
Additional lighting and screening to sanitary conveniences provided	6
Washing facilities provided	8
Sanitary conveniences repaired and provided with proper door and fastenings	17
Urinal stalls with flushing systems provided	4
Sanitary conveniences limewashed and cleansed	8
Bakehouses limewashed and cleansed	3
Additional ventilation pipes and inspection chambers installed	4

OUTWORKERS.

There were 112 persons resident in the Borough and 129 persons resident outside the Borough employed as outworkers by occupiers of factories in Tipton.

No irregularities were discovered.

